

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 25, 2003 LB 608

reprint of an excerpt in the World-Herald, this activity that the businesses are going to engage in will be engaged in in secrecy, because that's the way the Legislature is going to be forced to operate. I need to talk more about the prerogatives of the Legislature, the dignity and responsibility of the Legislature as an institution. When a group of profitmakers, gougers, and exploiters can walk on the Legislature as though the Legislature were a carpet something is terribly wrong. The other day I said the bill in that form before the atrocity that was committed against the bill this morning, I had said you have a law against stealing chickens written by the foxes. Well, now that the foxes have stolen all the chickens, they're dismantling the chicken coop. That's what they did this morning. So what remains? A barnyard with a spot where once something of value stood. But those whose job it was to protect the premises fled. They fled as hirelings flee because of cowardice, the inability or the unwillingness to stand up to those who would pervert our system of legislating, frighten us away from doing our jobs. The way that bill came before us from the Revenue Committee was something worthy of struggling for. What remains now is like soup, weak diluted soup. Do you know what it's made from? This soup is made from the shadow of an undernourished pigeon flying over a bucket of water. That's what they made the soup of, which this bill now approximates. You all can vote for it. You all can take pride in it. You can misrepresent what we did when you go out among your colleagues and your constituents and tell them that we achieved disclosure, that we did something to ensure that the workers are going to be treated fairly, that these jobs which are created are going to have with them a measure of dignity based on the compensation and the benefits that accrue to the people who hold these jobs offered by companies bribed to come here by money put in the pot by taxpayers throughout Nebraska. But it won't be presented honestly like that. After politicians have misbehaved, after politicians have worked their mischief, they then...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...misrepresent what it is that they have done. This bill is worthless. It is not something of which this Legislature can be proud, but it's not my bill. I told you